

Participation of Indian in Gulf war 1990 clearly shows the agility of Indian foreign policy. Explain (1)

India and Iraq share historical and civilisational ties. These ties stood the test of its time largely unaffected by third party countries influence on foreign policy. To keep up to its values India had been supporting the post war Iraq civilisation.

Gulf war of 1990's, when Saddam Hussein of Iraq invaded Kuwait, is one instance of a poignant relation between India and Iraq. This mutual respect is attributed to India's agile foreign policy.

1) Civilisational ties:-

Trade relations had existed between India and Arab since the Indus valley civilisation. This has enabled shared values of cultural and society, exchange of philosophical knowledge.

2) Recognition of Baathist regime:-

India, which is the harbinger of stable government, was the first to recognize the Baathist regime, which shared the Indian values of secularism, free speech, democracy.

3) Iraq reciprocation of India's Interest:-

Iraq, always stood apart from its Arab muslim counterparts. It went on to accept India's stand on Kashmir conflict and its war with Pakistan. Thus the respect between both the countries was deeply ingrained.

4) Oil trade:-

India's oil exports, exploration activity to meet its local demands, saw increased Indian expatriates into Arab countries.

At times of US sanctions of Iraq on its dictatorial activities, the oil trade was not completely severed.

5) Modern state building:-

India had led the funding activities for state building of its

social infrastructure, sharing of technological prowess between the two. This aspect of gratefulness had enabled Indian settlers to relocate safely during Kuwait war. (2)

6) Non-aligned stance:

India took a non-aligned stance led by PM Chandra Shekar when the Gulf war started. This ensured safe airlift of nationals from war-torn Kuwait - massive exercise by AIR INDIA

7) Postwar programmes:

The Gulf war ended with Operation Desert Storm, Operation Desert Sabre, wrecking Iraq economy with and crippling sanctions. India extending its support through Food for work programme of UN, aid for recovery, medical help.

Thus, the staunch support lend by friendly countries at time of crisis goes beyond strategic relations